

F-8139

Identifier: Makoto KOUMO, et al.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please find accompanying this response replacement sheets for Figs. 1-3B wherein amendments explained in the Remarks presented below are effected.

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REMARKS

The Examiner has requested that new drawings be provided because the drawings contain lines and numbers that are not uniform, clean and well defined. Applicant provides herewith new drawings prepared as required.

Claims 1-3 are pending and the Examiner has rejected Claim 1 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by either JP2001-30338, Gohlisch et al (USPN 5,378,415), Takubo et al (USPN 4,863,653) or Harris (USPN 4,721,589). Claims 1 and 2 are rejected Claim 1 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by either Ogawa et al (2002/0089077) or Allen et al (USPN 5,061,170). Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over any of the six stated references as modified by either Shiraki I (USPN 6,007,760) or Shiraki II (USPN 4,938,908) where the last two references are cited for teaching the claimed L/D ratio.

Applicant disagrees with the Examiner but has nonetheless cancelled Claim 1 and provided new Claim 4, based on Claim 1 and reciting limitations which serve to overcome the rejection. The new claim recites a combination of a first continuous rubber-extruding machine (1) having a strainer and a first forming nozzle and a second continuous rubber-extruding machine (2) having a gear pump and a second forming nozzle.

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With these features, a rubber material can be kneaded and deprived of foreign substances or particles at a first continuous rubber-extruding machine (1), so that a second continuous rubber-extruding machine (2) may be downsized as discussed in detail in the description, at a paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10.

Furthermore, since the second continuous rubber-extruding machine (2) is downsized, the machine (2) may be moved relative to the tire-building drum (3) in the direction of the axis of the drum (3), thereby permitting the rubber ribbon to be wound in a manner to form a desired rubber layer as discussed in the description, at page 9, lines 8 to 4 from the bottom.

Even if the second extruding machine (2) is downsized, the output of the rubber ribbon may be stabilized by controlling the pressure as recited in Claim 4 as discussed in detail, in the description, at the paragraph bridging pages 12 and 13.

Such features and advantages thereof as discussed above are not provided for in the references so that the claims are not anticipated or rendered obvious based on the references.

Applicant respectfully requests a three month extension of time for responding to the Office Action. The fee of \$1,020.00 for the extension is provided for in the charge authorization presented in the PTO Form 2038, Credit Card Payment form, provided herewith.

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If there is any discrepancy between the fee(s) due and the fee payment authorized in the Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038 or the Form PTO-2038 is missing or fee payment via the Form PTO-2038 cannot be processed, the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any fee(s) or fee(s) deficiency or credit any excess payment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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